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Study on Grid and Substation Operation & Maintenance of DESCO

An undergraduate internship report submitted by

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ABSTRACT

Electricity plays a vital role in the socio-economic development and poverty alleviation. It is considered as the driving force of all development activities. To alleviate poverty in the face of resource limitations and high population density, Bangladesh requires an economic growth rate of about 10% p.a. to provide employment to its rapidly growing labor force that cannot be absorbed by agriculture. In order to achieve this growth rate, availability of a reasonably priced and reliable source of electricity is a prerequisite.

The power sector in Bangladesh faced numerous problems characterized by lack of supply capacity, frequent power cuts, unacceptable quality of supply, and poor financial and operational performance of the sector entities. The customer service is not praiseworthy. There have been a number of reforms in the power sector in Bangladesh since her independence, but most of these reforms failed to bring desired improvements in the power sector. The most pressing problem in the power sector has been with the distribution system, which is characterized by heavy system loss and poor collection performance; however, the distribution system seldom got the priority in reform initiatives.

In the process of Power Sector Reforms by way of unbundling the power sector and increase efficiency in the area of electricity distribution, Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO) was created as a distribution company in November 1996 under the Companies Act 1994 as a Public Limited Company with an Authorized Capital of Tk. 5 billion. However the operational activities of DESCO at the field level commenced on September 24, 1998. The primary aims in creating DESCO were to provide better consumer service and to improve revenue collection.

In this internship report, the daily operation of DESCO, their electricity distribution & metering system as well as the substation equipment and switchgear & protective devices are studied.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement	iii
Abstract	iv
List of Figures	viii
List of Tables	ix
Chapter 1 Introduction	
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Objective	2
1.3 Scope of the Study	2
1.4 Research Methodology	3
1.4.1 Nature of the Study	3
1.4.2 Data Collection	4
1.4.2.1 Primary Source	5
1.4.2.2 Secondary Source	6
1.5 Limitations of the Study	7
Chapter 2 Company Profile	
2.1 Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd.	8
2.2 Major Works Involved	9
2.3 Territory	9
2.4 Supply Chain	10
2.5 Mission and Vision	11
2.6 Operation	12
2.7 Departments of DESCO	13
2.8 Some Other Utility Service Provider in Bangladesh	14
Chapter 3 Literature Review	
3.1 Introduction	15
3.2 How Electrical Distribution Works	16
3.3 Power System	17
3.4.1 Generation System	17
3.4.2 Transmission System	18
3.4.3 Distribution System	19

3.4	Important Terms of Power System	20
3.4.1	Transformer	20
3.4.2	Substation	21
3.4.3	Power Factor	22
3.4.4	Electricity Consumer	23
3.4.5	Demand Load	24
3.4.6	Installed Capacity	25
3.4.7	Electric Energy Measuring Unit	26
3.4.8	System Loss	27
Chapter 4	Grid and Substation Operation	
4.1	Grid	28
4.2	Substation	29
4.3	Description of the Components and Their Operation	30
4.3.1	Power Transformer	30
4.3.2.1	Transformer Principal	31
4.3.2.2	Grid Transformer	32
4.3.2.3	Substation Transformer	33
4.3.2.4	Oil Type Transformer	34
4.3.2	Circuit Breaker	35
4.3.2.1	SF6 Circuit Breaker	35
4.3.2.2	Vacuum Circuit Breaker	36
4.3.3	Current Transformer	37
4.3.4	Potential Transformer	38
4.3.5	Isolator	39
4.3.6	Lightning Arrestor	40
4.3.7	Bus Bar	41
4.3.8	Auxiliary Transformer	42
4.3.9	AC and DC Distribution Panel	42
4.3.10	Control Relay Panel	43
4.4	Protection of Power System	44
4.5	Transformer protection Scheme	45
4.6	Transformer Fault and Protection	46
4.6.1	Buchholz Relay	46

4.6.2	Differential Relay	47
4.6.3	Pressure Relief Relay	48
4.6.4	Over Current and Earth Fault Protection	49
4.7	Feeder Protection Schemes	50
4.7.1	O/C and E/F Protection in Feeder	50
4.7.2	Pilot Wire Protection	52
4.8	Bus bar Protection	53
Chapter 5	Summary and Future work	
5.1	Summary	54
5.2	Future work	55
References		56
Appendices		
	Appendix A	59
	Appendix B	60
	Appendix C	61

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
2.1 Operation of Sales & Distribution division	11
3.1 Typical alternating current power supply scheme	18
4.1 Grid and substation operation	30
4.2 Typical substation	31
4.3 Single line diagram of 132/33KV Bashundhara grid substation	32
4.4 Single line diagram of 33/11KV Baridhara substation	33
4.5 Components of power transformer	34
4.6 SF6 circuit breaker	36
4.6 Name plate of SF6 circuit breaker	37
4.7 Name plate of vacuum circuit breaker	38
4.8 Current transformer of Bashundhara grid	39
4.9 Potential transformer of Bashundhara grid	40
4.10 Disconnecting switch	41
4.11 Lightning arrestors	42
4.12 Lightning arrestor of Bashundhara Grid	42
4.13 Reserve bus bar system	44
4.14 Bus bar system in Bashundhara Grid	46
4.15 Control relay panel	49

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	General information of DESCO	8
2.2	Commercial and system operational function of DESCO	10
4.1	General Equipments of Grid and Substation	30